

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 844

By Borchert

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Rosemary Berkel Crisp of Marion, Illinois.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Rosemary Berkel Crisp; and

WHEREAS, a noted and extremely successful business leader, a tireless women's healthcare activist, a generous philanthropist, and a loving mother of six children, Mrs. Crisp died on December 1, 2007, surrounded by her loving family, after a heroic, courageous, and unvanquished twelve-year battle with ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Berkel Crisp was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2007, Mrs. Crisp was honored by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) with its prestigious Inspiring Women of Achievement Award, an honor befitting her lifelong devotion to improving the quality of healthcare services across Southern Illinois and beyond; and

WHEREAS, during her lifetime, Rosemary Berkel Crisp served on literally dozens of boards, foundations, and committees; at the time of her death, she was a Trustee of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois and a Director of the National Institute of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research in Washington, D.C.; the Southeast Missouri State University Foundation in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; the John A. Logan College Foundation in Carterville, Illinois; the University of Tennessee Women's Philanthropy Alliance; and the Marion Civic Center Foundation in Marion, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, her past board of director positions included Director of the National League for Nursing in New York, New York, and the Society for Advancement of Women's Health Research, Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, born in Chicago, Illinois, Rosemary Berkel Crisp graduated in 1958 from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Evansville, Indiana; she worked as a nurse from 1958 to 1960 at Marion Memorial Hospital in Marion, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, she married Harry L. Crisp II and focused her energies on raising a family, community service, and growing the family business, Pepsi Mid-America Company, which she co-owned with her husband; and

WHEREAS, from 1970 to 1985, Mrs. Crisp served as a volunteer nurse for the American Red Cross, Lions Club, and Girl Scouts; although she ceased practicing as a nurse in the mid-1980s, she continued to renew her nursing license throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, a co-founder of the Southern Illinois Women's Health Conference, Rosemary Crisp also served on the board of directors for the Hands of Hope Clinic, which offers free health care to needy families; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Mrs. Crisp received dozens of awards for her charitable work; she was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by the Greater Marion Area Chamber of Commerce, and Southeast Missouri State University named their nursing facility the "Rosemary Berkel Crisp Hall of Nursing" in recognition of her many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, although she resided in Southern Illinois, Mrs. Crisp touched the lives of many Tennesseans through her compassion, charity, and concerns, which far exceeded the border of her native state and spread well into Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, both Rosemary Berkel Crisp and her husband Harry L. Crisp contributed greatly to the University of Tennessee at Martin and their business concerns in Tennessee, namely their facility in Paris; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Crisp was an active and devout member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marion, Illinois, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Berkel Crisp was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Crisp was the proud mother of H. Lee Crisp III, Cynthia Crisp Dickens, Cara Crisp Sims, Catherine Crisp Newbold, Carole Crisp Schwarm, and Cheryl Crisp Rabbit; and

WHEREAS, she is further survived by her brother, Jim Berkel; sisters, Pat Pulley and Delores McCuan; seventeen grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Rosemary Berkel Crisp was, above all, an American and a woman of faith whose patriotism for her country and faith in her Lord transcended all other limitations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Crisp leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Rosemary Berkel Crisp, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Crisp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.